



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/769,404	01/30/2004	Jeff Byers	P012	8228
29397	7590	07/25/2008	EXAMINER	
LAW OFFICE OF GERALD MALISZEWSKI P.O. BOX 270829 SAN DIEGO, CA 92198-2829			SIDDIQI, MOHAMMAD A	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER			
			2154	
MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE			
			07/25/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/769,404	Applicant(s) BYERS ET AL.
	Examiner MOHAMMAD A. SIDDIQI	Art Unit 2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 March 2008.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-33 are presented for examination.

Specification

2. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d) (1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: Claim 23 recites the limitation "computer readable tangible medium" in the preamble. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nandi et. al. (7,272,674) (hereinafter Nandi) in view of Klotz et al. (US 2004/0054776) (hereinafter Klotz).

4. As per claim 1, Nandi discloses a system comprising: a server coupled to a network (310, fig 3);

a network adapter to couple said server to said network (340, fig 3), said network adapter having a plurality of adapter ports (340,345, fig 1); and an adapter driver executing on said server (330, fig 3), said adapter driver having a plurality of instances corresponding to said plurality of adapter ports (330, fig 3), wherein said adapter driver (330, fig 3), in response to a request to change a configuration of a selected instance of said plurality of instances, is to (col 2, lines 35-60; col 5, lines 39-64) , determine if there is data flow through the selected instance of said adapter driver (col 5, lines 39-64; col 6,lines 33-54), and reinitialize said selected instance of said plurality of instances without rebooting said server (Dynamic multipathing driver, 330 fig 3, col 5, lines 39-64; col 6,lines 33-54). Nandi specifically does not disclose to block all subsequent data flow through the selected instance of said adapter driver, block all subsequent information requests to said adapter driver relating to the selected instance. However, Klotz discloses to block all subsequent data flow through the selected instance of said adapter driver (page 19, para #0125), block all subsequent information requests to said adapter driver relating to the selected instance (page 19, para #0125). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in

the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Klotz and Nandi. The motivation would have been to prevent corruption conditions while configuring HBA.

5. As per claim 2, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Klotz discloses a storage coupled to said server via said network adapter (204 fig 2), and wherein said network is a storage area network and said network adapter is a Fibre Channel host bus adapter with PCI-X connectivity (page 23, para #0146).

6. The As per claim 3, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Klotz discloses server is one of a Solaris.TM. server and a Windows.TM. server (serer, page 23, para #0146).

7. The As per claim 4, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Nandi discloses adapter driver manages at least said plurality of adapter ports of said network adapter, and wherein each of said plurality of adapter ports are referenced individually on a per-instance basis by said adapter driver (340,345, fig 3, col 2, lines 35-60).

8. The As per claim 5, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Nandi discloses adapter driver further manages a second network adapter having a second plurality of adapter ports, and wherein each of said second plurality of

adapter ports are also referenced individually on a per-instance basis by said adapter driver (DMP, fig 3, col 2, lines 35-60).

9. The As per claim 6, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Klotz discloses using a graphical user interface of a driver management application (page 46, para #0272), a user may issue said request to change the configuration of said selected instance of said plurality of instances (page 46, para #272).

10. The As per claim 7, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Klotz discloses request to change the configuration of said selected instance is one of a driver parameter update request, a driver unload/load request, and a request to recognize a new device on said network (troubleshooting, page 19, para #0125; page 46 #272).

11. The As per claim 8, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Klotz discloses said driver management application is further to parse a configuration file of said selected instance into a name/value parameter list (page 19, para #0125; page 46, para #272).

12. The As per claim 9, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Klotz discloses driver management application retrieves a previous

initialization time stamp for the selected instance, said previous initialization time stamp to indicate the last time said selected instance was initialized (page 14, #0092).

13. The As per claim 10, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Nandi discloses said driver management application is further to, clear a plurality of old driver parameters for said selected instance, define a plurality of new driver parameters based on said request for the configuration change, and request that said adapter driver activate said plurality of new driver parameters (col 2,lines 35-60, col 5, lines 39-64).

14. The As per claim 11, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Nandi discloses said driver management application, following said reinitialize of the selected instance of said plurality of instances is to, request a new initialization time stamp for the selected instance, compare said new initialization time stamp to said previous initialization time stamp, and if said new initialization time stamp is later than said previous initialization time stamp, indicate that said reinitialization of said selected instance is successful (col 2,lines 35-60, col 5, lines 39-64).

15. As per claims 12-22 and 23-33, claims are rejected for the same reasons as claims 1-11 above.

Response to Arguments

16. Applicant's arguments filed 03/14/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive, therefore rejections to claims 1-33 is maintained.

17. In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, a network adapter to couple said server to said network (340, fig 3), said network adapter having a plurality of adapter ports (340,345, fig 1); and an adapter driver executing on said server (330, fig 3), said adapter driver having a plurality of instances corresponding to said plurality of adapter ports (330, fig 3), wherein said adapter driver (330, fig 3), in response to a request to change a configuration of a selected instance of said plurality of instances, is to (col 2, lines 35-60; col 5, lines 39-64) , determine if there is data flow through the selected instance of said adapter driver (col 5, lines 39-64; col 6,lines 33-54), and reinitialize said selected instance of said plurality of instances without rebooting said server (Dynamic multipathing driver, 330 fig 3, col 5, lines 39-64; col 6,lines 33-54). Klotz discloses to block (idle state, page 19, para #0125, line 17) all subsequent data

flow through the selected instance of said adapter driver (page 19, para #0125), block all subsequent information requests to said adapter driver (idle state, page 19, para #0125, line 17) relating to the selected instance (page 19, para #0125). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Klotz and Nandi. The motivation would have been to prevent corruption conditions while configuring HBA.

18. In the remarks applicants argued that:

Argument: Klotz does not disclose to block all subsequent data flow through the selected instance of said adapter driver, block all subsequent information requests to said adapter driver relating to the selected instance.

Response: Klotz does not disclose to block (idle state, page 19, para #0125, line 17) all subsequent data flow through the selected instance of said adapter driver (page 19, para #0125), block all (idle state, page 19, para #0125, line 17) subsequent information requests to said adapter driver relating to the selected instance (page 19, para #0125).

Conclusion

19. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MOHAMMAD A. SIDDIQI whose telephone number is (571)272-3976. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan J. Flynn can be reached on (571) 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MS

*/Nathan J. Flynn/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2143*

Application Number 	Application/Control No. 10/769,404	Applicant(s)/Patent under Reexamination BYERS ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
	MOHAMMAD A. SIDDIQI	2154